

**NINTH RACE**

**Belmont**

**JUNE 7, 1997**

1½ MILES. (2.24) 129th Running of **THE BELMONT**. Purse \$500,000 added (plus up to \$36,000 NYSBFOA). Grade I. 3-year-olds. By subscription of \$600 each, which should accompany the nomination if made on or before January 18 or \$6,000 if made on or before March 29; \$5,000 to pass the entry box; \$5,000 to start with \$500,000 added. At any time prior to the closing time of entries, horses may be nominated to The Belmont Stakes upon payment of a supplementary fee of \$50,000 to The New York Racing Association Inc. All supplementary fees will be included in the purse distribution. Horses nominated by payment of a supplementary fee (supplemental nominees) will not be allowed to enter if the maximum number of starters has otherwise been reached prior to the time of closing. If the number of supplemental nominees exceeds the number of available starting positions at closing, the conditions of each respective race shall be applied to determine which supplemental nominees will be allowed to start in such a race. All nominees, supplemental or otherwise, will be required to pay entry and starting fees. The added money and all fees to be divided 60% to the winner, 20% to second, 11% to third, 6% to fourth and 3% to fifth. Weights: Colts and geldings, 126 lbs. Fillies, 121 lbs. Starters to be named at the closing time of entries. The Belmont field will be limited to sixteen (16) starters. In the event that more than 16 entries pass through the entry box at the closing, the starters will be determined at the closing with 50% of the field (8 starters) given preference by accumulating the highest earnings in Graded Stakes (lifetime), including all money paid for performance in such Graded Stakes. The next five (5) starters (approximately 30%) will be determined by accumulating the highest earnings (lifetime) in all races except restricted stakes (i.e. any stake containing eligibility conditions other than sex and age). The remaining 3 starters (approximately 20%) shall be determined by accumulating the highest earnings (lifetime) in all races. Should this preference produce any ties, the additional starter(s) shall be determined by lot. If the rules described result in the exclusion of any horse, the \$5,000 entry fee will be refunded to the owner of said horse. The above conditions notwithstanding, any horse which earns purse money in either The Kentucky Derby or the Preakness Stakes shall be included in the initial eight starters in the Belmont Stakes. The winning owner will be presented with the August Belmont Memorial Cup, to be retained for one year, as well as a trophy for permanent possession and trophies will be presented to the winning trainer and jockey. Closed Saturday, March 29 with 375 nominations and 13 late nominations. Supplemental nominee: Mr. Energizer.

Value of Race: \$721,000 Winner \$432,600; second \$144,200; third \$79,310; fourth \$43,260; fifth \$21,630. Mutuel Pool \$10,362,477.00 Exacta Pool \$6,157,371.00 Trifecta Pool \$4,850,723.00

Last Raced	Horse	M/Eqt.	A.Wt	PP	¼	½	1	1¼	Str	Fin	Jockey	Odds 1/1
17May97 10Pim4	Touch Gold	L	3 126	1 11	11	44	3½	38	1½		McCarron C J	a-2.65
17May97 10Pim1	Silver Charm	L	3 126	2 3½	3½	2½	1hd	1½	21	314	Stevens G L	1.05
17May97 10Pim2	Free House	L	3 126	6 5½	42½	3½	21	21	314		Desormeaux K J	4.40
3May97 8CD5	Crypto Star	L	3 126	3 7	7	7	610	4½	4½		Day P	4.20
14May97 6Bel2	Irish Silence	Lb	3 126	7 4hd	52	56	5½	5½	59		Velazquez J R	34.25
10May97 9Spt1	Wild Rush	L	3 126	4 2½	2½	1½	44	620	618		Bailey J D	a-2.65
1May97 REM1	Mr. Energizer	Lf	3 126	5 69	66	6½	7	7	7		Ortega Manuel	45.00

a-Coupled: Touch Gold and Wild Rush.

**OFF AT 5:31 Start Good. Won driving. Time, :233, :491, 1:134, 1:384, 2:04, 2:284 Track fast.**

**\$2 Mutuel Prices:**

1-TOUCH GOLD (a-entry) .....	7.30	3.30	2.60
2-SILVER CHARM .....		3.00	2.40
5-FREE HOUSE .....			2.70

**\$2 EXACTA 1-2 PAID \$13.60 \$2 TRIFECTA 1-2-5 PAID \$23.80**

**B. c, (May), by Deputy Minister—Passing Mood, by Buckpasser. Trainer Hofmans David. Bred by Hill 'N Dale Farm & Holsinger Inc & Star Stable (Ky).**

TOUCH GOLD moved up along the inside to gain a clear advantage nearing the first turn, set the pace while racing well out from the rail for a half, relinquished the lead midway down the backstretch, raced just behind the leaders on the far turn, waited patiently behind horses on the turn, swung to the outside approaching the quarter pole, circled six wide to launch his bid entering the stretch then finished determinedly under strong left hand urging to wear down SILVER CHARM in the final fifty yards. SILVER CHARM broke alertly, moved to the outside nearing the first turn, raced well off the rail while outside the leaders entering the backstretch, gradually edged his way forward while six wide nearing the far turn, moved up outside WILD RUSH to challenge leaving the half mile pole, surged to the front midway on the turn, brushed with FREE HOUSE while battling heads apart in upper stretch, shook off FREE HOUSE inside the furlong marker, fought gamely while drifting out in deep stretch then yielded grudgingly. FREE HOUSE checked slightly at the start, was unhurried early, moved up seven wide along the backstretch, closed the gap from outside on the far turn, made a run outside SILVER CHARM approaching the quarter pole, battled heads apart into midstretch then weakened under pressure in the final eighth. CRYPTO STAR dropped back early, raced far back to the turn then failed to threaten while improving his position in the stretch. IRISH SILENCE saved ground going into the first turn, raced within striking distance to the far turn then gradually tired thereafter. WILD RUSH moved up between horses to take the lead from his entymate along the backstretch, set the pace while well out from the rail to the turn then faded in the drive. MR. ENERGIZER angled to the outside on the first turn but never reached contention while racing wide.

**Owners**—1, Stonerside Stable Ltd & Stronach F; 2, Lewis Beverly J & Robert B; 3, McCaffery Trudy & Toffan John; 4, Yates Darrell & Evelyn; 5, Delaney Austin; 6, Stronach Frank H; 7, Perez Robert

**Trainers**—1, Hofmans David; 2, Baffert Bob; 3, Gonzalez J Paco; 4, Catalan Wayne M; 5, O'Brien Leo; 6, Mandella Richard; 7, Callejas Alfredo